Inmate Welfare Checks

504.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to establish a requirement for conducting visual safety checks at least every 60 minutes for all inmates, and for creating and maintaining a log to document all safety checks.

504.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Thurston County Sheriff's Office that all correctional staff shall conduct safety checks at least once every 60 minutes on all inmates, or more frequently as determined by inmate custody status and/or housing classification.

Safety checks shall be made through direct visual observation. Cameras and monitors may supplement the required visual observation safety checks but they shall not replace the need for direct visual observation. Safety checks will be clearly documented on permanent logs in accordance with the office Daily Activity Logs and Shift Reports Policy.

504.3 WELFARE CHECKS

The staff shall adhere to the following procedures when conducting safety checks:

(a) Safety checks shall be conducted at least every 60 minutes and more frequently if necessary.

(b) Safety checks shall be conducted on an irregular schedule (staggered) so that inmates cannot predict when the checks will occur.

(c) Safety checks shall be done by personal observation of the corrections deputy and shall be sufficient to determine whether the inmate is experiencing any stress or trauma.

(d) Cameras and monitors may supplement the required visual observation safety checks but they shall not replace the need for direct visual observation.

(e) Safety checks will be clearly documented on permanent logs in accordance with the office Daily Activity Logs and Shift Reports Policy.

(f) Actual times of the checks and notations should be recorded on the daily activity logs.

(g) Log entries shall never be made in advance of the actual check. Log entries made in this manner do not represent factual information and are prohibited.

(h) Special management Inmates shall be checked more frequently as detailed in the Special Management Inmates Policy.

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